

**Writing Prompt Scoring Guide
Grade 11**

4 Points

The paper:

- has an effective beginning, middle, and end.
- uses paragraphing effectively.
- contains a strong controlling idea.
- progresses in a logical order.
- uses effective cohesive devices (such as transitions, repetition, parallel structure) between and within paragraphs.
- clearly addresses the topic and provides convincing elaboration through specific and relevant details, reasons, and examples.
- uses precise and vivid language.
- contains sentences that are clear and varied in structure.
- effectively uses writing techniques (such as imagery, humor, point of view, voice).
- shows complexity, freshness of thought, and individual perspective.
- clearly shows an awareness of audience and purpose.
- contains few errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling.

2 Points

The paper:

- has evidence of a beginning, a middle, and an end.
- shows evidence of paragraphing.
- may contain a sense of direction, but may lack focus.
- may not progress in a logical order.
- may not use cohesive devices.
- addresses the topic, but relies on generalities (lists) rather than specifics (development).
- may use imprecise language.
- contains sentences that are generally clear but may lack variety and complexity.
- attempts to use some writing techniques.
- may lack complexity, freshness of thought, and/or individual perspective.
- shows some awareness of audience and purpose.
- contains errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling that may be distracting to the reader.

3 Points

The paper:

- has a clear beginning, middle, and end.
- uses paragraphing appropriately.
- contains a controlling idea.
- generally progresses in a logical order.
- uses cohesive devices between and within paragraphs.
- addresses the topic using relevant details, reasons, and examples.
- uses precise language.
- contains sentences that are clear and show some variety in structure.
- uses writing techniques.
- shows some complexity, freshness of thought, and/or individual perspective.
- shows an awareness of audience and purpose.
- may contain errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling that are not distracting to the reader.

1 Point

The paper:

- may lack evidence of a beginning, a middle, and/or an end.
- may lack evidence of paragraphing.
- is difficult to follow and lacks focus.
- does not progress in a logical order, and may digress to unrelated topics.
- lacks cohesion.
- may address the topic, but lacks details.
- uses imprecise language.
- contains sentences that lack variety and clarity.
- shows little or no evidence of writing techniques.
- lacks complexity, freshness of thought, and individual perspective.
- shows little or no awareness of audience or purpose.
- contains repeated errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling that are distracting to the reader.